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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Commodity Prices in Yongbaek-gun	DATE DISTR.	28 December 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: [REDACTED] 25X1X

In early September 1953, the following commodity prices were in effect in Yongbaek-gun, Hwanghae Province;¹ all prices are quoted in North Korean Won:

COMMODITY	UNIT ²	PRICE IN WON
Rice	one large mal	1,200
Millet	one large mal	1,000
Broom corn millet	one large mal	1,100
Soybeans	one large mal	700
Barley	one large mal	800
Wheat	one large mal	900
Beans, red	one large mal	1,600
Sesame seeds	one large mal	3,000
Flour	one large mal	1,200
Melons	each	30
Peaches	each	10
Pears	one dozen	100
Apples	15	100

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<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PRICE IN WON</u>
Dates	one large mal	3,000
Persimmon, dried	20	200
Chestnuts	one large mal	1,400
Cabbage	each	20
Radishes, small	one bunch	20
Pumpkin	each	15
Pepper, hot	one sung	300
Soybean curd	one (sic)	35
Eggs	each	25
Cow	each	50,000
Pig	each	7,000
Dog	each	3,000
Chicken	each	550
Mackerel	each	110
Swordfish	one kun	250
Storn fish (sic)	each	250
Salted clams	one bowl	50
Crabs	10	100
Codfish, dried	20	400
Pipimpab (sic)	one bowl	150
Chow mein	one bowl	150
Wine, rice	one bottle	150
Wine, Korean Scotch type	one bottle	800
Sake	one bottle	250
Sulfadiazine	one tablet	20
Quinine	one tablet	20
Diazine (sic) ointment	one tube	300
Penicillin, crystalline	one bottle	300
Penicillin, oil	one bottle	600
Gold,	one toman	8,500

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<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PRICE IN WON</u>
Cotton cloth, wide	one foot	300
Cotton cloth, coarse	one foot	300
Cotton cloth, hand woven	one foot	50 - 90
Hemp cloth	one foot	200
Silk	one foot	180
Scissors	one pair	1,000
Plough	each	700
Sickle	each	350
Hoe	each	150
Rake	each	200
Toothpaste, Chinese	one tube	250
Toothpaste, North Korean	one tube	50
Toothpowder, Chinese	one box	500
Toothpowder, North Korean	one box	100
Laundry Soap, Chinese	one bar	250
Laundry soap, North Korean	one bar	80
Toilet soap, Chinese	one bar	400
Toilet soap, North Korean	one bar	300
Cream, face, Chinese	one jar	1,000
Cream, face, North Korean	one jar	200
Powder, face, North Korean	one box	200
Caustic soda	one kun	1,600
Brine	one kun	250
Dyes	one package	30
Towels, Chinese	each	400
Towels, North Korean	each	200
Sneakers, Chinese	one pair	1,200
Shoes, rubber, South Korean	one pair	1,000
Combs, North Korean	each	100
Needles, South Korean	one package	100
Cigarettes, Chinese	one package	260


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<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PRICE IN WON</u>
Tobacco	one kun	600
Hairpins, North Korea	three	20
Rubber string (sic)	one yard	50
Pencil, North Korean	each	50
Pencil, Chinese	each	100
Notebook	each	40
Fountain pen, Chinese	each	1,000
Pen (sic)	each	50
Lighter, South Korean	each	700
Lighter, Japanese	each	1,400
Lighter flint	each	25
Harmonica, Chinese	each	1,000

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Comments:

1. For additional information on commodity prices in North Korea for the periods 1 April - 1 June 1953 and 1 May - 1 August 1953, see

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2. One large mal is equivalent to 2.05 pecks; one kun is equivalent to 21.16 ounces; and one sung is equivalent to .477 gallon.

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